

KANSAS COMMENT

Meets a Sudden Death.—Charles Preusch was scolded to death by the accidental bursting of the injector pipes of his threshing engine. The accident happened on the farm of Roy Biggs, near Healy, where he had been threshing.

Broken Neck Mended.—E. R. Judd, Rock Island station agent at Selden, who broke his neck in a fall recently, but lived, has been operated upon at the company's hospital and the surgeons say he will soon be able to resume his duties as station agent.

Jewell City Electric Lights.—Jewell City has been taken out of the kerosene circuit. The electric lights have been turned on and instead of between 400 and 500 lights in town as was expected, there are between 500 and 600 ordered. It is the general sentiment that there should be a few more arc lights.

Was a Good Job Once.—State Printer T. A. McNeal will issue the report for the second quarter of his work on January 1. It will show that the saving effected through state ownership will be in the vicinity of \$5,000, against \$2,286 for the first quarter. At this rate it would seem that the state printer, under the old system of private ownership, cleaned up about \$20,000 a year net profits.

Biggest Ticket Sale on Record.—L. P. Wikidal, day ticket agent at the Santa Fe depot, claims that he has made the largest single ticket sale ever made in Chanute. The sale amounted to \$1,050, and was made to the manager of the Ole Olson theatrical troupe. It provides for the transportation of the ten members of the company from Chanute to Portland, Ore., and back again as far as Omaha. Stop-over privileges are included.

Farmer Stabs Merchant.—Because John Scholz, a merchant of Hobart, told Edward Morris, a farmer, when the latter inquired the price of a pair of shoes and then complained that it was exorbitant, that "those shoes are much too good for you to wear," Scholz was stabbed to the heart with a pocketknife. The stabbing was on the threshold of the store. Scholz leaves a wife and eight small children. Morris, who is in jail, has a family of six.

Ore Records Broken Again.—Competition among zinc buyers in the Missouri-Kansas district was more pronounced than it has been for three weeks. The basis price for 60 per cent ore for the week was fixed at \$50, making highest grades worth \$54. Many large producers refused to sell for less than a basis of \$51. The price for lead ore is \$78 per ton. This is several dollars in excess of the previous record price. One choice lot of 150 tons produced by the Underwriters Land Company sold for \$80 per ton.

Captured Contraband Game.—After a lively chase through several passenger coaches and after having outwitted two men, Gerald Vold, deputy game warden, secured two traveling bags containing thirty dozen quail at the Santa Fe railway station at Wichita. Both men were forced to drop the grips containing the birds to make their escape. The grips also contained eleven wild ducks. The deputy warden asserts the game was killed in Oklahoma and brought here. The Oklahoma game law does not permit of game being killed and taken out of the state.

New Sweet Potato.—E. T. Ellison, of Abilene, has received a sweet potato from Pagan Island, South Sea Islands, which he will plant next spring, hoping to find it a plant that will revolutionize the sweet potato industry. The sweet potato land west of Abilene raises immense crops, but it is difficult to keep the potatoes from rotting and a large proportion is lost that way. A sea captain brought from the South Sea Islands a few of these potatoes which are said to remain firm and hard for months. The University of California will experiment with them and Mr. Ellison will try them for Kansas. If they produce a hardy potato the sand hill land will net the sweet potato men \$100 an acre annually.

Harry Bone Sworn In.—Harry J. Bone assumed charge of the office of United States district attorney. He took the oath in the district clerk's office. Judge J. S. West, assistant attorney general, will be named as assistant district attorney by Mr. Bone. Attorney General Coleman hasn't yet decided whom to appoint to fill the vacancy caused by West's resignation. It may be a Topeka man.

Harper's Light Plant.—Construction work on the new municipal light plant is being pushed to the utmost with a large force of men. Material is arriving daily. The outside work will be practically completed by the first of the year.

Cooper's Marriage a Failure.—John C. Cooper, the wealthy farmer who married Clara Stookey, a Topeka woman, in Kansas City some time ago and gave her \$50,000 as a wedding present, was given a divorce from her by the district court of Shawnee county.

New Odd Fellows' Home.—The Odd Fellows of Kansas have purchased the Dewey hotel at Manhattan Beach, Kan., and will convert it into an orphan's home, providing, of course, that they do not get into another quarrel among themselves and lose it, as they did the De Boissiere home at Ottawa.

May be Canceled.—In the cancellation of charters of corporations which have failed to comply with the new corporation act, some of the irrigation companies which are parties to the Kansas-Colorado water suit are liable to be wiped out. A few of them have complied with the law, but most of them have ignored it.

Fear Dead Woman's Hand.—Residents of the negro settlement in Topeka are all stirred up over the discovery there of a dried up hand of a negro woman. It was found at one of the favorite loafing places of the negroes. They are afraid of the "hanta" and have called upon the sheriff to investigate the mystery.

Santa Fe Trail at Great Bend.—The committee on marking the Santa Fe trail have decided the trail crossed Main street, in Great Bend about where the Santa Fe railroad tracks now cross the street and they will ask that that road give them permission to erect a monument marking the trail in the center of the little park east of the depot.

Little Contagious Disease.—Only two cases of contagious disease are in Emporia, all the others having been released from quarantine. The danger of an epidemic from diphtheria, which was feared some time ago, has been allayed by the doctors who state that there is little sickness of any nature in Emporia and no contagious diseases except the two mentioned.

Motor Car for U. P. Line.—Along with other improvements the Union Pacific Railroad Company has decided to install motor cars on the branch of the road running between Leavenworth and Lawrence. Announcement to this effect has been made by W. S. Basinger, who is now with the road at Kansas City and has been confirmed by the local officials of the company.

Salina to Have Paid Firemen.—At last, Salina is to have a paid fire department. A petition, signed by eighty-five of the business men of the city, was presented to the council, asking for this paid department and the council acted favorably on the petition and instructed City Attorney Lovitt to draw up an ordinance providing for a fire department as described in the petition.

Fruit Growers Complain.—At the meeting of the State Horticultural Society a committee was appointed to consult with Attorney Carr W. Taylor with a view to bringing complaint for a decrease in freight rates on fruit shipments in the state. Frank Dixon, of Holton, claimed it cost him 41 cents a hundred to ship a carload of apples from Holton to Stockton, while the rate from New York to Stockton is only 47 cents. Others contended that the rate on fruit from California to New York was \$1 a hundred, while it was \$1.25 a hundred from Kansas to Eastern Missouri. The committee appointed under the resolution will confer with Carr Taylor, attorney for the board, shortly and formulate a complaint to be filed with the board. William H. Barnes, for twelve years secretary of the State Horticultural Society, a place that pays \$1,200 a year, with a \$720 job for his daughter, served notice that he would not be a candidate next year for re-election. His term is for two years. He holds over this time. In his letter he took occasion to scorch the state officers and newspaper men for their shabby treatment of his department.

Christmas Tree Ablaze.—Considerable excitement was caused at the North Ottawa Methodist church by a blaze in the Christmas tree. One of the branches caught fire from a candle, and the flame spread rapidly through the tree. The audience became badly frightened and one or two persons fainted before the panic died down. The tree was carried out of the building, and a severely burned hand received by Arthur Monford was the only damage done. The gifts escaped damage.

Operators Complain.—The conference between the railroad rate makers and the operators of the Osage coal fields has again been postponed until some time in January. The Osage operators were originally complainants in the general coal rate case, but they pulled out on the agreement that the rate makers would hold a conference with them and adjust rates for the Osage field. The roads seem to be indifferent as to when the conference shall be held. It has been postponed a couple of times already. Unless it is held soon the operators will apply to the railroad board for relief.

Topeka Jointists in Jail.—As a result of the crusade for law enforcement in Topeka ten jointists pleaded guilty and were sentenced to jail. This is the first time for some years that so many Topeka jointists have been behind the bars at one time.

Holton's New Bank Building.—The State Bank of Holton will have a new \$20,000 home to take the place of the building destroyed by fire a month ago. The directors have appointed a committee of three with power to make plans and contract for the building.

Block System About Ready.—The Santa Fe railroad telegraph and telephone block system will soon be ready to operate between Newton and Dodge City.

Snow at Wellsville.—The snow that began falling here will interfere little with the gathering of the corn crop as practically all the corn is safe in the cribs by this time.

Wichita Chicken Show.—The fifth annual exhibition of the Wichita Poultry and Pet Stock Association is open with the largest entry of birds ever made. Over 700 entries have already been made and more expected.

Improved Weather Service.—The weather bureau is arranging to supply every county seat town and other of the larger towns in Kansas with daily forecasts of the weather to be sent direct from Chicago each morning by wire.

Grocers and Merchants to Meet.—The Kansas State Grocers' and General Merchants' Association will meet in Topeka, Jan. 10. Nearly 300 members have announced that they will attend. Speakers will be here from various states.

Started by Pioneers.—In 1858 a Sunday School was organized by thirteen pioneers in Jackson county at the home of A. Ray. The school has run continuously ever since. Four of the original founders of the school are still alive.

Killed 71 Rabbits.—Edward Cordt Leavenworth and his one-armed brother, George Cordt, who live in the south part of town, are the champion rabbit hunters of this section. Near Valley Falls they killed seventy-one rabbits in just four hours and a half.

Ten-Year-Old's Long Trip.—Tagged and with a basket of food by his side, Wynne Christy left Wichita on a train for Alberta, Canada. The boy is 10 years old. His mother is dead, his father has forsaken him, and he will make the 1,200-mile-trip to relatives alone.

Manhattan College Prospers.—The fall term of the State Agricultural College has just closed and it was one of the most prosperous in the history of the institution. The enrollment was the largest of any previous term, being 1,315. The prospects for the coming winter term, which opened January 2, bid fair to show a large increase in attendance.

Rebates on Taxes.—The 5 per cent rebate on taxes which are paid a half year in advance will be abolished at the next session of the state legislature if the county clerks of the state can have their way. A committee was appointed at the state meeting of the clerks at Wichita to prepare a bill to present to the legislature when it meets in 1907.

Found Dead in a Field.—James T. Caple, a veteran, was found dead in a field near the Soldiers' home at Leavenworth. Caple came to the home here December 14 and soon after was admitted to the hospital. He showed signs of mental derangement and managed to escape from the hospital recently. His death was due to exhaustion and exposure. He was a soldier in company C, 29th Tennessee cavalry, in the civil war.

Rushing Corn Shipments.—Farmers in Kansas are rushing their corn to market as fast as they can in order to get it exported to Germany before the increased duty goes into effect. Germany has greatly increased the duty on corn, to take effect in February. The increase will amount to 6 or 7 cents a bushel. Thousands of bushels of corn have been sold to grain men throughout the state. The exports rush will soon be over and the elevators expect to work overtime until the first of the year. Nearly all corn is grading No. 2.

Kansas Town Scorched.—The business part of Herndon was destroyed by fire. Two drug stores, a meat market, bank and three general stores, including stocks and buildings, were burned, together with smaller concerns. A hardware store and general store alone are left. No estimate has been made of the loss. There is little insurance.

Policy for Every Voter.—Kansas has almost as many people carrying insurance as there are voters in the state. The reports in the insurance department show that 321,537 people in the state carry insurance. Of this number 129,121 carry insurance in old line companies to the amount of \$115,045,140, and 192,416 carry insurance in fraternal companies to the extent of \$293,406,005. This makes a total insurance of over \$408,000,000. The average vote cast in Kansas is about 320,000. Of course, many persons qualified to do so fail to vote, but the records show that there is an insurance policy in the state for every man who votes. This doesn't mean, however, that every man has an insurance policy, because many women carry policies.

Three Killed at Crossing.—As Chris Anderson and son, Mort, and his mother-in-law, Mrs. L. J. Woodward, of Alta Vista, were going home from Christmas exercises at the Methodist church they drove on the Rock Island tracks and were struck by an east-bound passenger train and instantly killed.

Prosperity Item.—George Albin bought sixty acres of land in Logan county last spring for \$480. He planted it to cane and has just sold the crop of cane seed for \$692, or \$312 more than the land cost him.

CENTER OF BLOODSHED IN RUSSIA

Ancient City of Moscow Richest and Most Picturesque of All the Great Towns in the Czar's Empire.

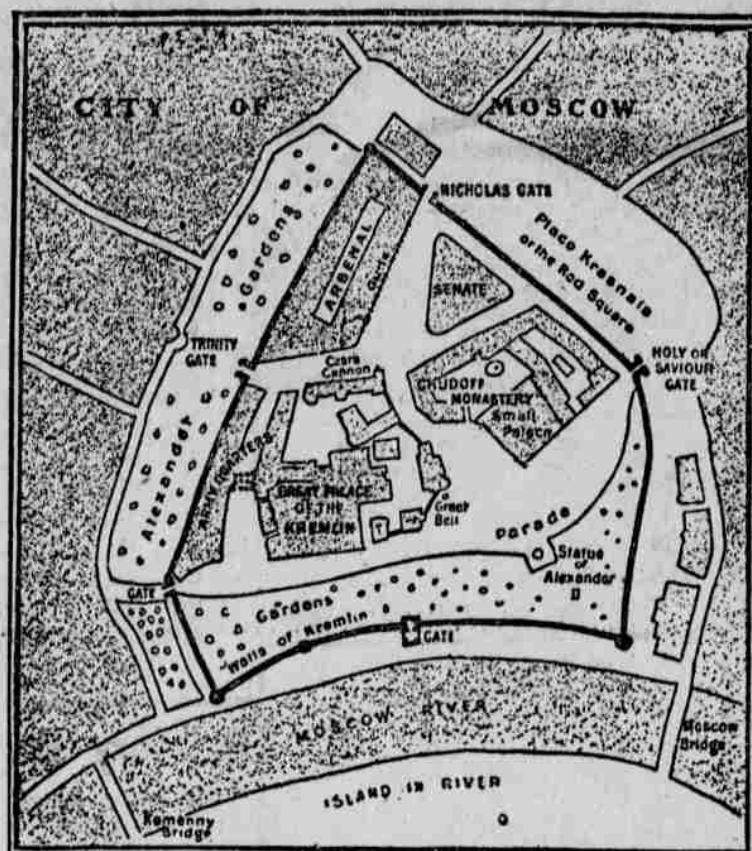
Moscow, in the streets of which terrible battles were fought between the revolutionary mobs and the soldiers of the czar, is the oldest and most famous city in the Russian empire. In picturesque sights and wealth of tradition it is not surpassed by any in the world, and recent events have made it still more historic, by adding another bloody chapter to its chronicles.

For many centuries Moscow was the chief city of the realm, the heart of Muscovy, where the czars held high court in the barbarously beautiful buildings which they erected to perpetuate their memory. Even now, although for reasons of convenience the governmental activities have been transferred to St. Petersburg, it is still the official capital of the empire. Here the slow growth of years has built up that mighty inclosure of palaces and

barbarous times in which it was built, so singular, so outside of all architectural traditions. Ivan the Terrible had this cathedral built as a thanks-offering for the capture of Kazan, and when it was completed he found it so beautiful, admirable and amazing that he ordered the eyes of the architect—an Italian, it was said—to be put out in order that he might not be able to construct any other like it.

Architect Put to Death.
"According to another version of the same legend, the czar asked the author of the church if he could not build a still more beautiful one, and upon his replying in the affirmative, he had his head cut off, so that Vassili Blajennoi should remain without a rival. It would be difficult to imagine a cruelty more flattering in its jealousy, and this Ivan the Terrible must have been at bottom a true art-

HEART OF CZAR'S DEFENSE IN MOSCOW.



The Kremlin, Walled and Moated, on One Side of Which is the Red Square Where Troops Were Massed.

fortresses, the Kremlin, within the walls of which are grouped many famous buildings.

Scene of Many Tragedies.
Here Ivan the Terrible, murderer of 3,000 men and women, held his grim sway. Here, when a boy, Peter the Great saw his two uncles butchered here Boris Godunoff, craftiest of the boyars, smiled and cringed until his chance came and then usurped the throne. Here every czar and scion of the royal line of Rurik has been buried, usually after a violent end. Here Napoleon's star began to set in the smoke of flaming houses. Here Grand Duke Sergius was blown to pieces by a bomb less than one year ago. If ghosts returned to earth to haunt the scenes of tragedies, Moscow would be populated with unceasing shadows.

After passing down the very streets which only the other day were stained with blood and strewn with corpses, through the Red Square and along the walls of the Kremlin, Theophile Gautier, the famous Frenchman of letters, wrote:

"Before long we reached the Kitagorod, which is the business quarter on the Krasnaia, the Red Square, or rather the beautiful square, for in Russia the words red and beautiful are synonymous. One of the sides of this is occupied by the long facade of the Gostiny-Dvor, an immense bazaar, intersected by streets, covered with glass roofs and containing not less than 6,000 shops. The wall of the Kremlin, or Kremlin, rises at the other extremity, with its doors pierced in its steep-roofed towers, allowing a glimpse over its battlements of the cupolas, towers and spires of the churches and convents within.

Church Like a Dream.
"At the other corner, strange as the architecture of a dream, rises like a vision the impossible church of Vassili Blajennoi, which causes the reason to doubt the witness of the eyes. One gazes at it with every appearance of reality and asks oneself if it is not a fantastic mirage, an edifice of clouds strangely colored by the sunshine, that the movement of the air will transform or make vanish. It is beyond doubt the most original monument in the world, recalling nothing that one has ever seen, nor attaching itself to any order of architecture.

"A legend is told of Vassili Blajennoi that probably is not true, but that does not on this account the less express with force and poetry the feeling of dazed admiration this edifice must have produced upon the half-

Woman of It.
"No," she said, "I'm afraid I do not love you enough to become your wife, but I shall always be your friend and sincerely wish for your happiness."
"Oh, that's all right," he rejoined.
"I have made up my mind to—"
"Please don't do anything rash," she interrupted.
"I'll not," he continued. "I'm going to propose to Miss Plumleigh to-morrow."
"Oh, horrors!" she exclaimed. "Please give me another day to consider, dear."

Progress in Railroad.
"Yes," says the lady whose dress case is covered with strange foreign labels, "the way railroads are run nowadays is a great improvement over what they were fifty years ago."
"But surely you had no experience as a traveler fifty years ago," says her friend.
"I don't mean that. But nowadays, don't you notice, when there is a wreck it is always held at some point convenient to a cluster of farm houses where the victims can go for coffee and to get warm?"

thousand dazzling points this marvelous decoration."

This cathedral, so strikingly described by the French writer, looked down upon spaces where machine-guns were playing upon a desperate mob, and where, with pistols and hand grenades, the revolutionists were giving pitched battle to the well-armed soldiery.

Within the forbidding walls which rise just beyond the picturesque church of Vassili Blajennoi is the Acropolis of Russia, the Kremlin, where the sacred relics and the crown jewels of the czars find shelter. Ivan II. surrounded it with the parapets which, restored and rebuilt in many places, are now being fortified by the government in order to prevent its buildings, within which are the richest treasures in the world, from being looted by the revolutionists. Outside its gates 25,000 troops were massed by Governor General Dubassoff.

Many Stately Buildings.
The Kremlin is an imposing collection of buildings, standing upon a flat-topped hill that is enveloped by its tower-flanked walls. It is washed on all sides by the River Volga, and its outer circumference is nearly a mile and a half long. Among the stately edifices grouped together under the one famous word "Kremlin" are the ancient palace of the czars, the palace of the holy synod, the Church of the Assumption, where the czars were crowned; the Church of the Annunciation, in which they are baptized and married; the Church of St. Michael, where most of them have been buried; two monasteries, two barracks housing 3,000 soldiers, a monument to the memory of Alexander II., who freed the serfs; the great bells of Moscow, now cracked and voiceless; the tower of Ivan and the national treasury, in which all relics of the Romanoff dynasty are stored.

Gautier compares the Kremlin to the Alhambra, saying:

"The Kremlin has many points in common with the Alhambra. Like the Moorish fortress, it occupies the top of a hill; it contains royal demesnes, churches, squares and among the ancient edifices, a modern palace that is imbedded in them as unfelicitously as the palace of Charles V., among the delicate Arabian architecture, which it crushes with its weight. The tower of Ivan Veliki is in fact by no means unlike the Torre de la Vela; and beyond the Kremlin, as beyond the Alhambra, lies stretched a scene of wonderful beauty, a panorama that the ravished eye holds ever in enchanted remembrance.

Oriental in Appearance.
"Strange as it may seem, the Kremlin, as seen from the outside, presents a more oriental appearance than the Alhambra itself, with its massive red towers that give no hint of the magnificence of their interior. Above the walls, with their sloping battlements, peeping between the towers with their carved roofs are myriads of cupolas, like balls of shining gold, with tulip-shaped bell towers reflecting in the sunshine a thousand colors from the metallic shades. The wall, white as a silver basket, incloses this bouquet of golden flowers, till one feels as if he were gazing at one of those fairy cities built by the fancy of the Arabian story teller, a crystallization in stone of the 'Thousand and One Nights.' And when winter sprinkles with its diamond powder these buildings beautiful as a dream, one could readily fancy oneself transported to another planet, for nothing like it has ever been one's fortune to behold before."

The jewels, silver, gold and relics in the national treasury within the Kremlin are claimed to represent an intrinsic value of \$600,000,000.



M. Durnovo, Minister of the Interior. Map of Baltic Provinces, Russia, Center of Revolt Against the Czar's Authority, and Minister Who is in Control of the Situation.

Expensive Discovery.
"No," said the first man, "we did not give our daughter a musical education. We realized when she was very young that she simply could not sing, and that was all there was to it. Of course, we regretted it, but what could we do?"
"I envy you," says the second man.
"Envy us? Why, your daughter has graduated from two of the most celebrated singing schools."
"Yes, and it has cost me \$4,000 to discover that she can't sing a note, either."